

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 STATE ROUTE 295
CHATHAM, NY 12037

TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 15, 2019 6:00 PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Maria Lull, Councilman Bob Balcom, Councilman Richardson, Councilman John Wapner. Councilman Kevin Weldon, and Deputy Town Clerk Janie Miller

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Lull called the meeting to order at 6PM and led the pledge to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT STATEMENT

The Chatham Town Board appreciates information received from the public during the Public Comment portion of each meeting, which often is very helpful in the governance of the Town. It is, however, not intended to be a debate with the public or a question and answer period. Issues raised during the public comment may be addressed by the Board during its regular meeting or by the Supervisor between meetings as necessary. As a courtesy to the other members of the public, there is a 5 minute per person limitation on oral comments for each public comment period. The public is also encouraged to provide the Board with written comments or materials when the subject matter cannot be presented in this time frame. Of course, while the Board discourages any remarks which may be considered defamatory or stigmatizing, it will not restrict the content of the public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jim Dunavin told the Board that there is a big crack in the sidewalk of the Albany Turnpike Bridge, by the liquor store side the sidewalk has dropped three inches. Supervisor Lull mentioned that DOT has signed the documents for the bridge and that they are at the design stage and they will be bidding by October. After hearing what Dunavin said, she will be getting in touch with the town engineer, Barton & Loguidice about the crack.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Email from Peter Christiano, P.E. Barton & Loguidice on estimated timeline for Albany Turnpike Road Traffic Signal.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recreation & Parks Committee: Weldon said that the Park Day was a big success. Attendance has doubled from 356 last year to 621 this year. They are working with the executive director of PS21 on expanding the trail from PS21 to Crellin Park for next season. Weldon spoke with Flying Deer about a celebration at Crellin Park. Weldon said the tennis courts have been repaired and there was a demonstration of pickle ball on one side of the tennis court during Park Day.

Citizens Finance and Planning Committee: Richardson said they are scheduled to meet on Sept. 30 and starting to receive estimates for the 2020 budget.

Climate Smart Community Committee: Weldon spoke with Terry Moag about the heating system. Weldon thought it would take three more days to finish the heating system. Weldon will present upgrade options at the next town board meeting.

Economic Stabilization Committee: Richardson said they met August 5 with a two items on the agenda. Met with Mike Tucker from the Columbia County Economic Development Corporation about visibility of town and village filtration of water and sewer near the village and 295 corridor. The committee is accepting an offer of a pre-study with the Columbia County Economic Development Corporation. Committee is meeting with Mayor Howe in a couple of weeks about visibility study . Richardson said Town Board will need a resolution on it. Richardson read a letter from Christopher Knable about bringing back the Old Shepherding Company. It would promote more jobs and increase sales tax revenue. Knable is requesting that the Town amend the special use permit in the zoning law. An Inn or restaurant is not permitted in the residential zone even if is being used for agricultural use. The current special use permit is currently in the business zone law. Richardson suggested the Town Board decide to amend the proposed zoning law with a public hearing. Balcom said it takes too much time. Lull suggested assigning it to the Comprehensive Plan Update Review Committee. Balcom said they should be given a time line to compensate for the budget. Lull thought the fall would be a better time. Wapner thought that was an important piece to get in the agenda. Richardson said it should be put off until the new committee is formed.

Communications Committee: Weldon said that Rippel has passed on the Web page to Jessie Ortiz. He is also working on the Facebook page. He needs confirmation of the e-mail list if those who signed up for , who really want to be on the contact list. Also Ortiz is working on the new google piece Home Hub. It will record the minutes, it will have a voice print, voice to text.

Lull spoke of sending out information about this new search tool called the intro 360 map searches for searching zoning codes to the Board Members, Building Dept., Zoning Board and Planning Board. Cost is \$5,000 and \$15,000 for a yearly renewal. Lull would like input and recommendations for the Citizen Finance Committee and the Communication Committee.

Balcom said there will be workshops on August 26th and 28th, and one meeting of Q & A on August 20th. Balcom said Town Planner Stolzenburg has been changing and updating proposed codes and an updated draft should be presented next week.

Ortiz updated the website, to show the FQ&A of the changes of the short term rentals for the August 15th meeting and the August 12 change table.

REPORTS

- Highway Department-On File
- Assessor-On file
- Code Enforcement/Building Inspector
- Dog Control
- Environmental Management Council
- Finance Department Report
- Justice Court
- Office of the Aging Advisory Board

- Recreation Director –On file
- Supervisor’s Report-On file
- Town Accounting firm – Monthly Financial Report & Abstract
- Town Attorney
- Town Clerk – on file

NEW BUSINESS

Lull met with Richard Dorsey about applying for a grant for historical marks in New Concord and Malden Bridge.

Resolution 156-2019 to Appoint member to the Economic Stabilization Committee

WHEREAS, the Town Board established an Economic Stabilization Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to appointment Tom Ehrich to the Economic Stabilization Committee, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board appoints Tom Ehrich to the Town of Chatham Economic Stabilization Committee effective immediately. Offered by Councilman Richardson, second by Councilman Wapner.

VOTE

AYE: Lull, Balcom, Richardson, Wapner, Weldon NAY: None Resolution adopted

Resolution 157-2019 to accept the financial abstract as presented to pay the Town Bills Offered by Councilman Richardson, second by Councilman Weldon.

VOTE

AYE: Lull, Balcom, Richardson, Wapner, Weldon NAY: None Resolution adopted

Resolution 158-2019 to accept the Town Account’s financial Supervisor’s Report of July 31, 2019.

Offered by Councilman Balcom, second by Councilman Weldon.

VOTE

AYE: Lull, Balcom, Richardson, Wapner, Weldon NAY: None Resolution adopted

Resolution 159-2019 to approve the minutes of the Town Board Meeting(s) July 1, July 8, July 26, August 1, 2019. Offered by Councilman Weldon, second by Councilman Balcom.

VOTE

AYE: Lull, Balcom, Richardson, Wapner, Weldon NAY: None Resolution adopted

Resolution 160-2019 Budget Appropriation increase WHEREAS, the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) is budgeted for \$219,000.00 in the 2019 Town Budget (DB5112.489), and WHEREAS, the 2019-2020 New York State Budget included extra funding for the Town of Chatham in the sum of \$92,344.01 for the “CHIPS”, “PAVE,NY” and the “Extreme Winter Recovery” Funding, and THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Chatham Town Board authorizes the increase to the CHIPS (DB5112.489) budget appropriation by \$92,344.01 for Highway improvement, changing the total budget for (DB5112.489) to \$311,344.01.

Discussion

Richardson questioned CHIPS budget monies from 2018 to current. The \$266,000 was put into the reserve fund for 2019 because the 2018 year was closed out by the time they received it. He said the Board needed a clearer explanation of the DB fund balances. Richardson felt it should be put off to the next meeting.

Councilman Richardson made the motion to table, seconded by Councilman Weldon.

VOTE

AYE: Lull, Balcom, Richardson, Wapner, Weldon NAY: None Resolution tabled.

Lull received two quotes for appraising the Town land. She will need a resolution for the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Abby Mesick said the Q & A sessions are really productive and she hopes the Board will continue to have them.

Ted Miner was questioning why the Board was coming up with a new zone for the Shepherders Inn. His family has had close ties with the Shaker Museum and the Cheese factory. When his Custom Overhead Doors burnt to the ground, he was able to rebuild on a second site and it was considered recreational zone. He hopes the board will consider going down the path of recreational zone for the Shepherders Inn. The community embraced his business and he feels they will with this also. He said it would be a wonderful contribution to the town.

Jessica Brooks has lived on Shaker Museum Road for two years and in Chatham since 2004. She is worrying about accepting the proposal of the Shepherders Inn. Richardson said the Board is not in the position to accept the proposal; it's not in their jurisdiction. It is up to the Zoning and Planning Board. Paul Sagan lives on Shaker Museum Road. He has lived there 30 years, before it was an Inn. He agrees with Jessica Brooks and hopes the town will carefully weigh and take the time for what is proposed. The road is narrow and concerned of the impacted with the environment and the neighborhood. Christopher Sandsbury also lives on Shaker Museum Road and also owns a farm on County Route 13. They are heavily active in this area. He commends you on your work and services and that the Board will be taking your time on this proposed matter. He hopes the Board doesn't forget the area of Malden Bridge Road and Shaker Museum Road and that it narrows to that stop sign. Rebecca Carter lives on Shaker Museum Road and thanking the Board for your time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Councilman Weldon, second by Councilman Wapner and carried the Board entered Executive Session at 7:00 pm under Public Officers Law §105 (f).

Deputy Town Clerk, Janie Miller was dismissed at this time and there were no other minutes documented.

Respectfully submitted by,
Janie Miller, Deputy Town Clerk